

African American Council Members
City of Charleston, South Carolina

The 1783 charter of the City of Charleston provided for a form of government that generally existed in cities during the colonial era. From 1783 to 1808, the city was divided into thirteen wards, each represented by a warden elected annually; the intendant was elected from the wardens. The city elected wardens and intendants until 1836. The city elected a mayor and aldermen from 1836 through 1975. The city has elected a mayor and council members from 1975 to the present.

1868: Military appointments made by Major Edward Camby

Reverend Ennals J. Adams
Reverend Richard H. Cain
Richard Dereef
Robert Howard
William McKinlay
Edward P. Wall
William Weston

November 1868 Election

William McKinlay
Robert Howard, Sr.
Richard Holloway
William R. Hampton
Launcelot F. Wall
Philip Thorne
Malcom Brown
Edward P. Wall
Thomas Small

1871 Election. No African American aldermen from 1871-73.¹

1873 Election

W. J. McKinlay
S. B. Garrett
A. B. Mitchell
W. G. Fields
John A. Godfrey
B. Moncrief
George Shrewsbury
John Gordon
R. N. Gregorie

1877 Election. No African American city council representatives for 90 years.

¹ Bernard E. Powers, Jr., *Black Charlestonians: A Social History* (Fayetteville: The University of Arkansas Press, 1994), 228.

St. Julian Devine, 1967-1975. Mayor Pro Tem in 1975. First black alderman in 90 years.²

Frank McKenzie, 1971-75

David S. Hill, 1971-1975

Jerome Kinloch, 1975-1998

Daniel L. Richardson, 1975-1992

Hilda Jefferson, 1975-1998 (female)

Arthur Christopher, 1975-1992

Brenda Scott, 1975-1998 (female)

Robert Ford, 1975-1992

Ligure Ellington, 1992-1996

Maurice Washington, 1992-2000

Louis Waring, 1994-2012

James Lewis, Jr., 1996-2019

Kwado Campbell, 1998-2004

[Robert Mitchell](#), 1998-2002, 2006-present

Wendell J. Gilliard, 1998-2008

Jimmy S. Gallant, 2000-2012

[William Dudley Gregorie](#), 2009-present

[Perry K. Waring](#), 2012-present

Rodney Williams, 2014-2017

² Robert Behre, "Charleston's City Council Draws Outside the Lines of Race," *Post and Courier*, 28 February 1993.